

Ballad Analysis Paper

(15 points)

- Select a ballad from those in class, or find one you would like to explore on your own.
- Print a copy of the song lyrics.
- Hit the web to see what you can learn about your song's writer, history, content, meaning, etc. Some places to begin:
 - www.learningfromlyrics.com
 - www.songfacts.com
- Complete the chart worksheet (next page)
- Write a brief paper analyzing the song.
 - explain the content/story it tells (about a page)
 - answer one or more of the following questions about the song (two pages)
 - What are the literary features (plot, person, characters, dialogue, story shape, etc.)?
 - What is the emotional trajectory?
 - To whom is the song directed (audience)
 - What is the literary/social challenge of the song and how does it succeed or fail in meeting those challenges?
- **Turn in:**
- Copy of lyrics
 - Chart worksheet
 - 3 page mini-report of song meaning/content
 - References

Write a few sentences on each of these dimensions of the story/song

Dramatization	
Reflection or Expression of Sentiment (or lack thereof	
Dialogue or Questions and Answers	
Beat and Rhyme Scheme	
Refrain? How used?	
Directness or indirectness	
Fiction or nonfiction story	

Mini-analysis: